

COUNTRY: Germany (Soviet Zone)		SECURITY INFORMATION	
TOPIC: Laerz Airfield		REPORT	
EVALUATION	PLACE OBTAINED	50X1-HUM	
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REMARKS			
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- During the period from 10 through 26 April 1952, a twin-engine plane towing an air sleeve was daily observed at the Laerz airfield. The plane would take off at 8 a.m. and return at 11 a.m. (1) On 15, 17 and 23 or 24 April, MiG-15s practiced firing at ground targets after 10 a.m. At intervals of about 30 minutes, four aircraft flying in a four finger formation approached the field. Over the firing range the planes formed an echelon and then approached the target. Only after the first plane had pulled out of its dive would the second plane dive at the target. After approaching the target four times, the planes returned to the airfield and landed. Subsequently the next formation would take off for the same practice. (2) About 9 a.m. on 29 April, several MiG-15s took off from the field. Five MiG-15s were observed at the eastern end of the runway; another 6 MiG-15s were parked at the southeastern end of the runway. At 12:20 p.m., MiG-15s No 990 and 996 were taxiing from the aircraft dispersal area to the take-off point and then took off. Two small one-axle carts were seen at the aircraft dispersal area. Two long bottles with a hose were seen on each cart which was surrounded by about 10 technical personnel who wore blue and black overalls. (3)
- On the morning of 20 April, a MiG-15 plane was seen. The pilot of this plane had just switched off its power plant. One soldier placed a red, sieve-shaped cap on the jet aperture. Before leaving the plane, the pilot pushed back the rear section of the cabin roof while the forward section of the cabin was opened to the fore. (4) The plane was then towed away by a vehicle.
- On 15 April, about 80 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets arrived at the Ellerholz railroad station. those soldiers belonged to an AAA unit which arrived on 18 April. On the following days, Rechlin restricted area six AA guns having barrels about 2.5 meters long. The guns were mounted on undercarriages and covered with tarpaulins. The AA guns observed on 20 April proceeding in a southerly direction were sent to the airfield. Five AA guns were reportedly involved. (5)
- Construction material continued to arrive at the field. Stones arrived by rail and water from Zehdenick, lime and cement by rail from Ruedersdorf, and gravel was hauled by horse-drawn vehicles and Soviet trucks from the vicinity of Kotzow and the Sprotberg. The Soviet trucks used for this purpose allegedly belonged to a unit stationed in Fuerstenberg

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5. Vehicles observed at the airfield [REDACTED]

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6. On 8, 9, 12 and 17 May, there was flying at the field. On 18 May, 41 or 42 MiG-15s and type-29 planes, 3 biplanes, 2 twin-engine and 3 single-engine planes were observed at the field. (6) During the period from 11 through 17 May, eight railroad tank cars arrived at the installation. (7)

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7. At 12:30 p.m. on 21 April, [REDACTED] 21 MiG-15s and type-29 planes, 1 U-2 and some aircraft of undetermined type at the field. MiG-15s practiced individual take-offs and landings, and 2 MiG-15s were observed practicing air combat at a high altitude. Between 6:30 and 6:45 a.m. on 11 May, [REDACTED] 22 MiG-15s and type-29 planes at the field. Another estimated 15 planes of the same type were also parked there. There was no flying.

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8. Between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on 6 May, there was flying by MiG-15s at the field. MiG-15s [REDACTED] were observed flying between 10:30 and 11 a.m. Aircraft observed between 10 and 10:30 a.m. included 6 jet fighters parked at the site for alert planes; 12 jet fighters parked near the flight control station; 15 jet fighters parked in the aircraft dispersal area near the canal and covered with tarpaulins; 2 jet fighters parked on the eastern hardstands; 4 jet fighters which were flying; 2 twin-engine planes; 5 Yak-11s; and 4 U-2s all of them parked near the flight control station. The numbers of the jet fighters parked near the canal could not be determined. (6) Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. on 7 May, there was flying by jet fighters. From 10 a.m. to noon and 11 p.m. to midnight on 8 May, there was flying at the field. Between 2:45 a.m. and 4 p.m. on 9 May, individual jet fighters and Yak-11s practiced flying.

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9. Trucks [REDACTED] sedan [REDACTED] and jeep [REDACTED] were observed at the field.

10. Aircraft observed at the field at 10 a.m. on 6 May, included 32 swept-back jet fighters, 3 twin-engine planes, 3 single-engine planes fitted with radial engines, and 3 biplanes. There was no flying. At 2:45 p.m. on 7 May, only 31 swept-back jet fighters were counted at the field. Between 2 and 2:30 p.m., 3 swept-back jet fighters took off and 4 MiG-15s landed about 4 p.m. Aircraft observed at the field at 2 p.m. on 11 May, included 32 MiG-15s, 2 single-engine

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planes fitted with radial engines and 3 biplanes. Four more MiG-15s were observed flying. Between 2 and 5:30 p.m. swept-back jet fighters continuously took off for local flights of about 20 minutes duration. Only the aircraft parked along the board fence northwest of the flight control station were involved in these activities. Each plane would take off only once. The planes were towed individually by a jeep to the take-off point. 50X1-HUM

After landing, each plane taxied from the western end of the runway to the flight control station, where the pilot would leave the plane, which was then towed by a jeep to the aircraft dispersal area. The take-off signals were given by a soldier with a white flag. This soldier was posted at a point about 200 meters from the eastern end of the runway. 50X1-HUM

11. On the morning of 11 May, the twin-engine planes fitted with double rudder assemblies left the field. By 14 May, they had not yet returned. (8) On 13 May, at least 3 two-seater, swept-back jet fighters 50X1-HUM

12. During the period from 15 April through 14 May, a total of 42 railroad tank cars, which were being unloaded, were counted at the field. (9) New buildings were under construction southeast of the flight control station.

Comments.

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- (1) [redacted] actually two air sleeves connected by a pole were towed by the twin-engine plane. Similar observations were previously made at Finsterwalde. There is a possibility that the air sleeves observed were of metallic material upon which airborne or ground radar sets respond particularly well. Since detailed information on the utilization of these twin airsleeves is not available, their purpose cannot be determined.
- (2) This is the first detailed information on the procedure followed for air-to-ground firing by formations.
- (3) It is believed that these bottles contained compressed air for the starting of the power plants of MiG-15s.
- (4) This is the first reliable information on the way in which cockpit canopies of MiG-15s are opened. 50X1-HUM
- (5) This item of information supplements a previous report. [redacted] No information has been received where these AA guns were emplaced. It is likewise unknown to which AA unit these batteries are assigned.
- (6) It is believed that these figures represent the total aircraft equipment of the two fighter regiments stationed at Laerz. It was previously assumed that the two regiments were equipped with about 40 MiG-15s.
- (7) Information on the number of railroad tank cars dispatched to the field has not yet been received [redacted]
- (8) It is believed that these twin-engine aircraft belonged to the tow-target unit in Schoonwalde which were temporarily stationed in Laerz. On 18 May, these planes were again observed at the field. See paragraph 6 of the present report. 50X1-HUM
- (9) [redacted] exactly 41 railroad tank cars were dispatched through the Central Railroad Tank Car Distribution Point, Berlin to Laerz airfield during the period from 19 through 30 April. Four of these tank cars were forwarded to Damgarten, the railroad station of Puetznitz airfield. The figures mentioned in the present report may therefore be correct on the assumption that of the eight railroad tank cars mentioned in paragraph 6 of the present report, only four arrived at Laerz prior to 14 May. 50X1-HUM

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